

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00613 01 OF 02 271319Z

47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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P R 271230Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7302

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, FI

SUBJ: HELSINKI CHILE TRIBUNAL

REF: HELSINKI 557 (NOTAL)

BEGUN SUMMARY:

"THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE
CRIMES OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE" COMPLETED
FOUR DAYS OF HEARINGS IN HELSINKI ON MARCH 24. THIS
WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC) SPONSORED AND PROMOTED
FORUM IN ITS FINAL STATEMENT CALLED FOR WORLDWIDE
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00613 01 OF 02 271319Z

CONDEMNATION OF THE JUNTA AND SUPPORT FOR THE

RESTORATION OF "LEGITIMATE" GOVERNMENT. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO KEEP THE "CHILE QUESTION" ALIVE AS SISTER FORUMS ARE CURRENTLY DISPENSING POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDISTIC ATTACKS ON SITUATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD NOT TO THEIR LIKING. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ATTRACTING A GOODLY NUMBER OF LEFTIST SUPPORTERS TO THEIR CAUSE. THEY DID NOT SUCCEED IN ATTRACTING INFLUENTIAL NON-LEFTIST PARTICIPATION. HELSINKI WAS OBVIOUSLY CHOSEN AS SITE OF THIS FORUM BECAUSE THE WPC IS HEADQUARTERED HERE. THERE WERE THE USUAL ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE US ROLE IN CHILE BY VARIOUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND WITNESSES. MOST FINNISH PARTICIPANTS DID NOT, HOWEVER, ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCE COVERAGE IN THE FINNISH MEDIA WAS ATTENTIVE BUT RESTRAINED. (WE ASCRIBE THIS MODERATION, IN PART, TO OUR QUIET TALKS WITH RESPONSIBLE FINNS BEFORE THE COMMISSION GOT UNDERWAY.) WE ARE NOT AWARE OF COVERAGE IN WORLD PRESS, ALTHOUGH AS OF MARCH 25 NO REFERENCE TO FORUM HAD BEEN MADE IN PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE, A FAIRLY GOOD EUROPEAN GUAGE ON NEWSWORTHINESS. THE COMMISSION WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED A "PERMANENT SECRETARIAT" IN HELSINKI PLANS TO MEET AGAIN NEXT SEPTEMBER IN COPENHAGEN. END SUMMARY.

1. CONCLUDING STATEMENT: THE COMMISSION'S "CONCLUDING STATEMENT" SUMMARIZES THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE COUP, THE PERSECUTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE IN ITS WAKE AND THE CONTINUING PLIGHT OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS. IN THIS NARRATIVE FAMILIAR ALLEGATIONS OF US PRESSURE ON THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT ARE CITED: DENIAL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ITT AND CIA PLOTTING, AND SUSPICIOUS NAVAL EXERCISES. "THESE CIRCUMSTANCES" THE STATEMENT SAYS, "SUGGEST A RATHER CONSISTENT PATTERN OF US INVOLVEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER IN CHILE. THIS CONCLUSION CAN BE SUPPORTED BY STATEMENTS OF HIGH-RANKING US OFFICIALS BEFORE AND AFTER THE COUP."

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 00613 01 OF 02 271319Z

3. THE CONCLUDING APPEAL ALSO CONTAINS A REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH, INTERESTINGLY, WAS DROPPED FROM THE FINNISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE CONCLUDING STATEMENT. AFTER NOTING THAT THE ONLY SANCTION AT ITS DISPOSAL IS THE MORAL VERDICT OF HUMANITY THE COMMISSION URGENTLY APPEALED "TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, TO ALL GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES: TO DENOUNCE THE CRIMES

AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY THE JUNTA (AND US INTERVENTION IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS), TO WORK FOR THE ISOLATION OF THE MILITARY JUNTA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO END ALL SUPPORT FOR THE JUNTA, TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE TO RESTORE THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT, TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE JUNTA TO LIFT THE STATE OF WAR, TO STOP THE TERROR, DEFINITELY CLOSE ALL CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE ITS WORK AS LONG AS IT IS NEEDED." WORDS IN PARENTHESES OMITTED IN FINNISH TEXT.

4. FUTURE PLANS: IN STATEMENTS TO PRESS AFTER CLOSE OF HELSINKI MEETING THE COMMISSION ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT SESSION WOULD BE HELD IN COPENHAGEN IN SEPTEMBER. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT A "BERTRAND RUSSELL" MEETING TO CONSIDER LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS WHICH IS TO CONVENE SHORTLY IN ROME WOULD FOCUS MOST OF ITS ATTENTION ON CHILE.

5. OPENING SESSION AND FINNISH PARTICIPATION: THE COMMISSION WAS FORMALLY OPENED THE EVENING OF MARCH 21 BY FINNISH PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA. REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT FINLAND HAS BEEN HOST TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ESPECIALLY TO THE CSCE WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY LEAD TO PEACE IN EUROPE, SORSA SAID THAT PEACE CANNOT PREVAIL WHERE COLONIALISM AND OPPRESSION EXIST. "PARTICIPATION IN SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CHILE. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS THE OBLIGATION, ACCORDING TO THE UN CHARTER, TO STRIVE TO ENSURE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS." SORSA WAS FOLLOWED BY EDUCATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 HELSIN 00613 01 OF 02 271319Z

MINISTER ULF SUNDQVIST, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE "INQUIRY" WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE AND OF EVENTS IN CHILE. IN RECEIVING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE CHILEAN DELEGATION ON MARCH 22 PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SAID FINLAND WILL GIVE ALL ITS SUPPORT TO THE STRUGGLE IN CHILE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY AND WISHED THE COMMISSION SUCCESS IN ITS WORK.

6. FINNISH MEDIA COVERAGE: THE FINNISH PRESS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS, WAS REMARKABLY RESTRAINED IN ITS COVERAGE. FINLAND'S TWO LARGEST PAPERS DID NOT EVEN GIVE THE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT

SOME DAYS. THE TV COVERAGE WAS JUDICIOUS AND ONE EVENING ONE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE YOUNG COMMENTATOR WAS CHAFING AT THE RESTRICTIONS. MANY GRUESOME AND HEART-RENDING STORIES OF JUNTA BRUTALITY WERE GIVEN WIDE PLAY, BUT WE ASCRIBE-- AT LEAST IN PART -- THE RESTRAINT IN THE PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE US ROLE TO OUR QUIET TALKS WITH SEVERAL RESPONSIBLE FINNS IN THE DAYS PRECEDING THE COMMISSION HEARINGS (REFTEL). ALSO, DESPITE DEEP AND GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT CHILE ON THE PART OF MANY FINNS THERE IS A WIDESPREAD FEELING OF EMBARRASSMENT AT THE ONE-SIDED PROPAGANDISTIC NATURE OF THIS FORUM WHICH NONE OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS EAGER TO SEE TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI.

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00613 02 OF 02 271325Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 0613

7. THE COMMISSION HEARINGS: FOLLOWING THURSDAY'S OPENING SESSION EACH DAY WAS DEVOTED TO A PARTICULAR THEME: FRIDAY- VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS; SATURDAY - POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES; AND, SUNDAY - CONSPIRACIES, INCLUDING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AGAINST THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEGAL GOVERNMENT. MOST SESSIONS WERE OPEN ALTHOUGH PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO REGISTER AND WERE ISSUED NAME TAGS. THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL-ATTENDED BUT MANY OF THOSE OUR EMBASSY LOCAL RECOGNIZED WERE YOUNG LEFTISTS. IN THE FINAL DAY'S SESSION ONE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE US THE HARDEST KNOCKS WAS A SWEDE, CLAUS CRONER, WHO

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00613 02 OF 02 271325Z

SAID THAT WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER KISSINGER, THE CIA, AND AMERICAN CORPORATIONS THE COUP WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. TWO AMERICANS, CATHERINE CAMP AND STANLEY FAULKNER, ALSO MADE EXTENSIVE ALLEGATIONS OF US COMPLICITY IN THE COUP.

8. THE PARTICIPANTS: THE EMBASSY HAS AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF STATEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE COMMISSION WHICH WE WILL SUBMIT BY AIRGRAM. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION NUMBERED ABOUT 50. MOST APPEARED TO BE PRESENT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER ALTHOUGH THE SEATS RESERVED FOR THEM WERE RARELY FILLED. THE PRESIDENCY AND THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING:

CHAIRMAN-JACOB SODERMAN-FINLAND
VICE-CHAIRMAN-FRIEDRICH-KARL KAUL-GDR
VICE-CHAIRMAN-LUIS BELTRAN PRIETO FIGUEROA-VENEZUELA
SEC. GEN. - HANS-GORAN FRANCK-SWEDEN
DEPUTY SEC. GEN.-ALEXANDER BERKOV-USSR
DEPUTY SEC. GEN.-JYRKI LAPPI-SEPPALA-FINLAND
MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT-PELLE KJELLSTROM-NORWAY
MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT-ALFREDO VARELA-ARGENTINA
THE CHILEAN DELEGATION INCLUDED MRS. HORTENSIA BUSSI DE ALLENDE, ISABEL ALLENDE, JORGE ARRATE, JOSE-MIGUEL INZULZA, AND VOLODIA TEITELBOIM.
KREHBIEL

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